



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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Seven recognized as Business Friends of Education

Burmaster salutes business education partnerships that shape the future of our youth

MADISON—Seven Wisconsin businesses that reach out to youth in their communities through service-learning, youth apprenticeships, industry partnerships, and state-certified co-op programs received Business Friends of Education awards from State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster during the Feb. 18 session of the Wisconsin Association for Career and Technical Education conference in Appleton.

"These awards recognize true champions from the business community for their strong involvement, honored commitment, and clear vision toward the ideals of the New Wisconsin Promise: a quality education for every child," Burmaster said. "The business and education partnerships we salute today shape the futures of so many of our youth by providing real-world learning experiences that connect academic studies and technical knowledge in a business or industry setting."

Recipients of the 2005 Business Friend of Education awards were:

- **Jim Hegenbarth**, Park Bank of Madison, for the bank's support of career and technical education through its long-time partnership with Monona Grove High School, service as training sponsors for both youth apprenticeship and co-op students, and host of the 2004 Finance Youth Apprenticeship Orientation.
- **Greg Huza**, Blackhawk Engineering in Platteville, for commitment to work-based learning and the Drafting and Design Youth Apprenticeship program. Blackhawk Engineering has served 10 years as a mentor to drafting and design youth apprentices, providing not only the basics in engineering and design, but making sure the students gain background and experience in customer relations and workplace ethics.
- **Dave Kreuts**, science teacher at Burlington High School, for his entrepreneurial approach to science instruction that has his entire chemistry class annually developing a new product for BHS Chemical. The product is then marketed in the community in a partnership with the local Pick-n-Save grocery store. Proceeds provide student scholarships.
- **Harry Macco**, Hillcrest Homes in De Pere, for many years of support and incentives for at-risk youth and working with the De Pere School District and Northeast Wisconsin Technical College to develop a Youth Apprenticeship

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Construction program. The program provides on-site, hands-on construction experiences for up to 24 high school students, who will receive both high school and technical college credit for the class.

- **Susan Obry**, St. Francis Hospital in Milwaukee, for her outstanding efforts to support the Health Youth Apprenticeship program at Oak Creek High School, ensuring that students spend some training hours at St. Francis Hospital in addition to area nursing homes.
- **Kent Olson**, owner of Olson Tires in Wausau, for helping high schools in the northeastern part of the state implement and update their technology and pre-engineering programs; maintaining a close partnership with Wausau East High School, providing training for the schools' instructors; and serving as an adviser for the automotive youth apprenticeship program and member of state and local business education advisory panels.
- **Catherine Tierney**, president and CEO of Community First Credit Union in Appleton, for the organization's financial education partnership with the Appleton Area School District, which is designed to teach students more about managing money through a personal financial curriculum and student-operated credit union branches in three Appleton high schools. The credit union branches provide hands-on learning to about 20 students as well as opportunities for marketing class students to apply marketing and promotion skills through a promotion contest.

"These Friends of Education understand that the foundation of our democracy and long-term economic security and quality of life in Wisconsin is dependent on how we educate this generation," Burmaster concluded.

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NOTE: To receive digital photos from the Business Friends of Education awards program, contact Ron Anderson, DPI, (608) 266-3374, < ronald.anderson@dpi.state.wi.us >.